

Ravalli County Commissioners 215 S. 4th Street, Suite A Hamilton, MT. 59840 406-375-6500

February 4, 2008

Kathy Belke, President Pantry Partners Food Bank P.O. Box 806 Stevensville, MT 59870

Dear Kathy,

It is a pleasure to write this letter in support of Pantry Partners. The Pantry has played an important role in our area by providing food and other household products to families and individuals in need of assistance. Residents from Florence to Victor receive help from the Pantry and it is comforting to know that there is help for those in need.

The Ravalli County Commissioners, local business and civic organizations, and community members are very supportive of the Pantry and donate money and food supplies for its operations. It is also noteworthy that the Pantry is an all volunteer organization; no one receives any compensation for their efforts. When community members make donations to the Pantry they know their donation will be used to help those in need.

We have been advised that over time the number of clients the Pantry serves has grown substantially and continues to increase. When the Pantry began operating over 18 years ago it served about 30 individuals a month, today it serves over 160 families and more than 350 individuals per month.

This continued growth requires more room for the Pantry to effectively serve its growing number of clients. We understand the Pantry has been engaged in fund raising activities for future building needs, but the pressing need for a new facility necessitates seeking funding outside the local community.

We fully support the Pantry and its efforts to secure funding for a new facility.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Carlotta Grandstaff, Chairman

Alan Thompson, Member

Kathleen Driscoll, Member